

Appl. No. 10/089,856

Reply to Office Action of May 26, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102; and claims 6-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 3-5 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

As indicated above, Applicants have added new claims 55-57. Claim 55 corresponds to claim 3 in independent form where claims 56 and 57 depend from claim 55 and further correspond to claims 4 and 5. Accordingly, claims 55-57 should be considered allowable.

Applicants note that original claims 1-27 were canceled in Applicants' Preliminary Amendment filed along with the application filing papers on April 1, 2002. In place of claims 1-27, Applicants added new claims 28-54 where claims 28-54 corresponded to claims 1-27, respectively, and where any changes were made for clarifying purposes in accordance with U.S. patent practice and, thus, were not intended to narrow and/or disclaim any subject matter in view of same. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled claims 1-54 without prejudice or disclaimer and have further added new claims 55-57 as discussed above.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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